

# Keeping our animals safe on the Tiwi Islands

Project 1.1.12

## Looking after country and keeping our animals safe

Many animals are disappearing from across northern Australia. Some might be lost forever unless we can find ways to keep them safe.

The Tiwi Islands are healthier country than other places. We haven't lost any animals yet. However, some animals are starting to disappear. We have to be careful about looking after country, otherwise some Tiwi animals could be lost **forever**.

Some of these animals that are starting to disappear are the northern brown bandicoot, black-footed tree-rat, maybe even the possum.

We need to protect these animals because: they help keep Tiwi country healthy; they are good bush tucker; and they are important food for other Tiwi animals, like the carpet python and the masked owl.

If these animals disappear, part of Tiwi culture will be lost forever.

## Feral cats

Feral cats are very bad for country. They are a big reason why these animals are disappearing across northern Australia.

A feral cat can eat lots of animals every single day. If there are too many feral cats in the bush, they eat too many Tiwi animals, which makes them disappear.

We need to know more about feral cats to make sure we can stop them and help keep Tiwi country and culture strong.

## What we are doing about feral cats

*A feral cat caught on a camera on Melville Island.  
Image: Hugh Davies*



Tiwi Land Rangers and researchers from Charles Darwin University (CDU) have been using cameras to record cats across the Tiwi Islands. These cameras take a picture when an animal walks past. Using these pictures, we can work out where cats like to hunt. We can also work out how many cats are out in the Tiwi bush.



*Northern brown bandicoots are starting to disappear.  
Image: Daniela Parra, CC BY-NC 2.0, Flickr*



## What we have found out about cats

There are more cats in areas where there have been big hot fires, and lots of buffalos and horses.

There are more cats on Melville Island than on Bathurst Island.

We see the most cats between Three-Ways and Pickataramoor.

If we can stop hot fires and keep the numbers of buffalo and horses low, we can help stop feral cats from eating Tiwi animals.

## What Tiwi Land Rangers and CDU are doing to help

- We are using cool fire in kimirrakinari (season of fire) to stop big hot fires later in the dry season.
- We are finding ways to stop feral cats from hunting Tiwi animals.



*A black-footed tree-rat and her babies. Image: Leigh-Ann Woolley*

## What you can do to help

- *It is best if you don't have cats as pets.*
- *If you do have a pet cat, go to a vet to have it de-sexed, and keep it indoors.*
- *If you see a cat when you are out bush hunting, shoot it.*



*Healthy country on the Tiwi Islands. Image: Nicolas Rakotopare*

## Acknowledgements

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# Ngamatayamangi nginingawila yanamurluwi ngini pakumwara wutamuwu awungarra Tiwi Murrakupuni.

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## Ngawurrayamangi nginingawila murrakupuni amintiya yanamurluwi ngini pakumwara wutamuwu.

Tayikuwapi yanamurluwi wupamulijipa nginingaji-ngatawa murrakupuni apungimi awungarruwu Northern Australia. Yingwapa yiloti wupamulijipa. Api ngawatuwu wiyi warntirrana ngamatayamangi ngini papurajuwi pirimatuwu.

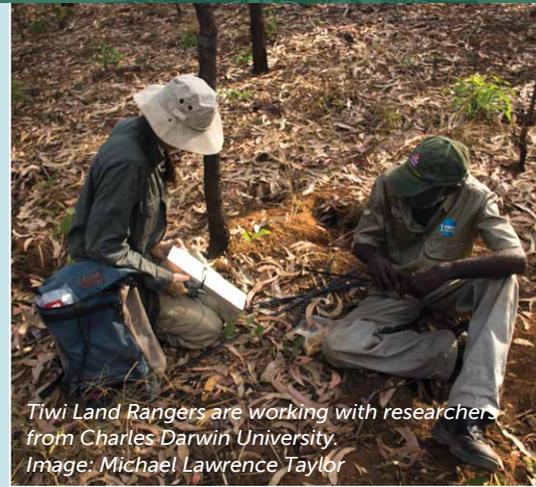
Tiwi ratuwarti, warntirrana kurrupuraji murrakupuni karluwunara yoni murrakupuni. Karrikamini ninganuwanga yanamurluwi pirripamulijipa awungarra. Api yingwapa yanamurluwi wuta waya wumakirringimi kutamaka. Arrana ngarimi wiyi karri ngawatamangi nginingawila murrakupuni pili yingwapa yanamurluwi kalikaki wurimi kiyi wupamulijipa yiloti.

Wutatuwu yingwapa yanamurluwi mamana wupamulijipa kutamaka awuta kapinaki marinyi, yintumunga amintiya wuninga.

Ngawa ngawutimarti ngini ngamatamangi kapinaki yanamurluwi pili wupakirayi pupuni murrakupuni. Naki awarra pupuni warntiyanginila yinkituwi ngini yanamurluwi puranji wuwapa nginingaji yilinga amintiya pinjoma.

Ngini kapinaki yanamurluwi wupamulijipa api wiyi nginingawila yiminga ampamulijipa.

Ngini kapinaki yanamurluwi wupamulijipa api nginingawila yiminga apawurtipa yiloti.



*Tiwi Land Rangers are working with researchers from Charles Darwin University. Image: Michael Lawrence Taylor*



*Brush-tailed rabbit-rat, another Tiwi mammal at risk. Image: Hugh Davies*

*Northern brown bandicoot. Image: Alaric Fisher*



## Pujikatuwi

Pujikatuwi wuta jirti yanamurluwi wurumu kapi murrakupuni. Wuta wumatakuna yingwapa yanamurluwi ngini wupamulijipa kurrukala Australia.

Awuta Pujikatuwi wuwapa yanamurluwi nginingaji-ngatawa wumunga. Ngawa ngawuni tayikuwapi Pujikatuwi kapi warta ngini kurlalaga wurimi awuta kapinaki yanamurluwi ngini kalikali wumakirringimi kutamaka.

Ngarimungurumi kapinaki Pujikatuwi ngini ngajiti wupajawani waya ngini ngamatamangi nginingawila murrakupuni amintiya yiminga.

## Awungana ngamatama ngini awuta Pujikatuwi

Tiwi Land Rangers amintiya Researchers kapi wupamurrumi Charles Darwin University wuta yimanka wuwunga amintiya ngini wupalamiya kangi pukaringini ngini awuta Pujikatuwi wurumu kapi Tiwi murrakupuni. Awarra

naki yimanka ngampakurluwuni awuta Pujikatuwi wupangurlumayi kapi warta amintiya kurlalaga ngini wuta puranji wuwapa. Ngarimungurumi ngini awunginari Pujikatuwi wurumu kapi warta.



*Tiwi Land Rangers are helping keep Tiwi mammals safe. Image: Tiwi Land Council*

## Kamini awarra ngarimajawu ngini awuta kapinaki Pujikatuwi

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Yita tayikuwapi Pujikatuwi kurlalaga wurumi awungarruwu kapi yikwanamini yikwani jurrumumi awungaji kapi wurumu jarranguwi amintiya pika.

Pujikatuwi wurumu waya awungaji kapi Melville Island karrikamini kapi Wurrumiyanga. Ngampakurluwuni tayikuwapi Pujikatuwi wurumu kapi three ways amintiya Pickataramoor.

Ngawa ngajiti jurrumumi yikwanamini pili ngawatuwu ngawatawani jarranguwi amintiya pika ngini warntirrana pirimatamuwu. Ngawa karluwu ngawutimarti ngini Pujikatuwi wuwapa Tiwi yanamurluwi.

## Awungana wurima Tiwi Land Rangers amintiya Charles Darwin University ngini warntirrana wupamurrumi

Ngawa ngawutimarti ngini ngarikirimi kiyija yikwani karri kimirrakinari (season of fire) amintiya karluwu ngarikirimi arikulani yikwanamini karri kimirrakinari (dry season).

Ngawa ngawutimarti ngini awuta Pujikatuwi ngajiti wuwapa nginingawila Tiwi yanamurluwi.

## Awungana ngamatama ngini ngawiyati ngapamurrumi

Awarra pupuni ngini ngajiti ngarimajila awuta kapinaki Pujikatuwi.

Ngini nuwa nimpirimajila Pujikatuwi api napamarruriyi kapi yanamurluwi takutuwi (vet) kiyi takumuna ngini-wutawa pajini kiyi wumarruriyi japuja kiyi pakumwara yilaruwu kapi kurrampali.

Ngini ngapakurluwuni Pujikatuwi karri ngawuriyi warta api turli nirrami amintiya nimarra nyirrami wiyi kapi Tiwi Rangers.

## Wayajuwa



*Black-footed tree rat. Image: Hayley Geyle*